Clarifications to Bidder’s Questions:
**Advancing the metabarcoding assay validation framework**

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| 1 | Do we have to submit a quotation for all four requirements or can we submit a quotation for select requirements? | We split this work into four requirements to allow some flexibility in what suppliers quote for due to timescale/capacity, and/or for us to only part award if costs come back higher than expected. We suggest that suppliers only quote for requirements that they feel they can realistically deliver. However, a score of 0 would be given for technical questions corresponding to a requirement that was not quoted for, which may contribute to a lower overall score if other suppliers quote for all requirements. Suppliers can consider a [consortium bid](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fguidance%2Fhow-to-bid-for-government-contracts-as-a-consortium&data=05%7C02%7CFTS%40naturalengland.org.uk%7Cc681863bbf21478a28ee08dda515d2ce%7C770a245002274c6290c74e38537f1102%7C0%7C0%7C638848235318377638%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=B2TwH0Hk99XEmmXil0DdyVzKs7uaYHOyphZ01eDnnsM%3D&reserved=0) to aid delivery of all four requirements, but it will be their responsibility to coordinate this. |
| 2 | Is there any flexibility around the deadline for Requirement 1 (developing a user guide)? | We can be somewhat flexible on this. We would want a near-finished draft of the user guide by 1st August to enable this to be shared alongside the framework checklist and interpretation when asking the eDNA community for feedback (Requirement 2). |
| 3 | What assistance can Natural England offer suppliers for Requirement 2 (obtain feedback from the eDNA community)? | We are interested in obtaining feedback from end users globally, not only in the UK. The UK DNA Working Group is just one eDNA consortium that should be contacted. We have a list of contacts for other eDNA consortia globally that we can provide to the successful contractor**.** |